

Message Text

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SUBJECT: "YUGOSLAVIA IS NOT A KINGDOM"

REF: BELGRADE 2538

1. SUMMARY. IN PRE-CONGRESS INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS, LCY EXECUTIVE BUREAU SECRETARY STANE DOLANC MET HEAD-ON PERSISTENT QUESTIONS AS TO WHO WILL BE TITO'S HEIR AS LCY PRESIDENT. "IF YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU WHO WILL BE THE SUCCESSOR - WHETHER IT WILL BE EDVARD KARDELJ, STANE DOLANC, VLADIMIR BAKARIC, OR PETAR STAMBOLIC - PERMIT ME TO PLAINLY TELL YOU THAT WE SIMPLY LAUGH AT SUCH SPECULATION. WE ARE BEYOND SUCH THINGS." THAT IS SO BECAUSE TITOISM IS MORE THAN TITO, OR AS DOLANC PUT IT - "TITO IS NOT JUST JOSIP BROZ". SPEAKING FRANKLY FOR FOREIGN CONSUMPTION ONLY, DOLANC ALSO ADDRESSED YUGOSLAVIA'S INDEPENDENCE FROM THE EAST AND OTHER TOPICS. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN HIS OWN CONGRESS CURTAIN-RAISER, LCY SECRETARY

STANE DOLANC, FLANKED BY PARTY EXECUTIVE BUREAU COLLEAGUES
TODO KURTOVIC, AND JURE BILIC, TALKED WITH FOREIGN NEWSMEN
MAY 24 ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA'S FUTURE COURSE, WHAT AFTER TITO,
RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS, AND OTHER QUESTIONS OF MAJOR
INTEREST TO OBSERVERS ABROAD. SPEAKING QUITE OPENLY, AS
HE HAS IN THE PAST WHEN TALKING TO THE FOREIGN PRESS,
DOLANC MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

3. TITO'S SUCCESSOR. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ABOUT A
SUCCESSOR TO TITO AS LCY PRESIDENT, DOLANC SAID "WE DO
NOT THINK ABOUT THIS, NOR DO WE NEED TO. WE ARE NOT A
KINGDOM WHICH HAS TO FIND AN HEIR-APPARENT". THE LCY
CONGRESS WILL THEREFORE NOT ELECT A PARTY VICE PRESIDENT,
HE ADDED. ACCORDING TO WIRE SERVICES, HE LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT HE
EXPECTED TO CARRY ON HIS PRESENT FUNCTIONS FOR ANOTHER FOUR-YEAR
TERM. DOLANC CAUTIONED REPORTERS THAT PARTY IS NOT PREPARING FOR ANY
KIND OF "SPECIAL OR EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION" AFTER TITO'S
DEATH, NOR IS THERE ANY "SPECIAL MECHANISM" WHICH WOULD
BE ESTABLISHED TO CHOOSE TITO'S SUCCESSOR AS PARTY CHIEF.

4. SOVIET BLOC. REAFFIRMING YUGOSLAVIA'S COMMITMENT TO
NONALIGNMENT, DOLANC SAID NEW VIGOROUS ROLE OF PARTY IN
DOMESTIC AFFAIRS SHOULD NOT BE MISINTERPRETED AS MEANING
CHANGE IN YUGOSLAVIA'S RELATIONSHIP TO EAST BLOC.
YUGOSLAVIA WAS NEVER A MEMBER OF THE EASTERN AUZO AND
NEVER WILL BE. GOOD RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST PARTIES
"ARE NOT BASED ON IDEOLOGICAL CONCESSIONS", HE SAID.
"NEITHER THE SOVIET UNION, NOR THE OTHER SOCIALIST
COUNTRIES HAVE ATTEMPTED TO INTEGRATE YUGOSLAVIA INTO
THE CAMP." AS FOR THE "THEORY OF LIMITED SOVEREIGNTY OF
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, NOTHING HAS CHANGED IN OUR POSITION
ON THAT QUESTION," HE AFFIRMED.

5. DOLANC ALSO ASSURED NEWSMEN LCY DOES "NOT FEAR POSSIBLE
FUTURE NATIONALITY OR SOCIAL CONFLICTS", AFTER TITO.
"WE HAVE HAD SUCH CONFLICTS EVEN WITH TITO AROUND."
AS FOR NOW, TITO IS "ACTIVE AND IN GOOD HEALTH".

6. COMMENT. AS WAS CASE A YEAR AGO PRIOR 4TH LCY CONFERENCE,
DOLANC'S REMARKS TO CORRESPONDENTS WERE FOR FOREIGN
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CONSUMPTION ONLY. WHILE EXCERPTS WERE PRINTED IN ENGLISH
LANGUAGE TANJUG, DOMESTIC MEDIA HAVE NOT MENTIONED DOLANC
INTERVIEW. ONCE AGAIN, THE PARTY HAS FOUND IT USEFUL TO
HOLD A WESTERN STYLE NEWS CONFERENCE IN HOPE OF INFLUENCING
FOREIGN ANALYSIS OF YUGOSLAV SCENE AS WELL AS GET ACROSS
MESSAGES ABOUT TITO SUCCESSION CONSIDERED UNSUITED FOR
DOMESTIC AUDIENCES.
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